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**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A modular security, monitoring, and control device comprising:

a core module and an input/output module in electrical communication with one another;

a first peripheral being removably connected to said core module so that said core module and said first peripheral are in electrical communication;

a first end cap being removably connected to said first peripheral; and

a tamper monitor that detects tampering with said first peripheral.

Claim 2. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 1, wherein said tamper monitor detects tampering with said first end cap.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) A modular security, monitoring, and control device comprising:

a core module and an input/output module in electrical communication with one another;

a first peripheral being removably connected to said core module so that said core module and said first peripheral are in electrical communication;

a first end cap being removably connected to said first peripheral;

a tamper monitor that detects tampering with said first peripheral; and

a second peripheral being removably connected between said first peripheral and said first end cap so that said second peripheral is in electrical communication with said core module through said first peripheral.

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Claim 4. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 3, wherein said tamper monitor detects tampering with said second peripheral.

Claim 5. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 3, wherein said first and second peripherals each has a function selected from the group consisting of access control, temperature detection, smoke detection, intrusion entry alarms, lighting control, video surveillance, intercom communications, motion detection, asset resource tracking, inventory control, biometrics, closed circuit television, expense control tracking, personnel tracking, guard tour, product vending, HVAC monitoring, time/ attendance monitoring, chemical agent sensing, biological agent sensing, optical sensors, and any combinations thereof.

Claim 6. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 1, further comprising a second end cap removably connected to said core module.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) ~~The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 6, further comprising~~ A modular security, monitoring, and control device comprising:

a core module and an input/output module in electrical communication with one another;

a first peripheral being removably connected to said core module so that said core module and said first peripheral are in electrical communication;

a first end cap being removably connected to said first peripheral;

a tamper monitor that detects tampering with said first peripheral;

a second end cap removably connected to said core module; and

a second peripheral being removably connected between said core module and said second end cap, said second peripheral being in electrical communication with said core module.

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Claim 8. (Previously presented) A modular security, monitoring, and control device comprising:

a core module and an input/output module in electrical communication with one another;

a first peripheral being removably connected to said core module so that said core module and said first peripheral are in electrical communication;

a first end cap being removably connected to said first peripheral; and

a tamper monitor that detects tampering with said first peripheral, wherein said core module includes a third party expansion port for placing said core module in electrical communication with a third party peripheral.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 1, wherein said core module and said input/output module are configured to communicate with a plurality of peripherals having ~~similar and/or dissimilar~~ a plurality of different data types.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A modular security, monitoring, and control device comprising:

a processor in electrical communication with an input/output device; and

a plurality of peripheral devices secured to said processor so that each of said plurality of peripheral devices is in electrical communication with said processor, said processor being configured to collect ~~similar and/or dissimilar~~ a plurality of different data types from ~~each of~~ said plurality of peripheral devices.

Claim 11. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 10, further comprising a tamper monitor for detecting tampering with said plurality of peripheral devices.

Claim 12. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 10, further comprising a first end cap removably secured to one of said plurality of peripheral devices.

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Claim 13. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 12, further comprising a tamper monitor for detecting tampering with said plurality of peripheral devices and/or said first end cap.

Claim 14. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 10, wherein said plurality of peripheral devices each has a function selected from the group consisting of access control, temperature detection, smoke detection, intrusion entry alarms, lighting control, video surveillance, intercom communications, motion detection, asset resource tracking, inventory control, biometrics, closed circuit television, expense control tracking, personnel tracking, guard tour, product vending, HVAC monitoring, time/ attendance monitoring, chemical agent sensing, biological agent sensing, optical sensors, and any combinations thereof.

Claim 15. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 10, further comprising a third party expansion port for placing said processor in electrical communication with a third party peripheral device.

Claim 16. (Original) The modular security, monitoring, and control device as in claim 10, wherein processor and said input/output device are disposed in a base, said base being configured so that said plurality of peripheral devices expand from said base in a direction selected from the group consisting of a width direction, a height direction, a depth direction, and any combinations thereof.

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Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method of forming a security, monitoring, and control device comprising:

placing a core module in electrical communication with an input/output module, said core module being configured to place said input/output module in electrical communication with a plurality of peripherals having ~~similar and/or dissimilar~~ a plurality of different data types; and

plugging a first peripheral into said core module so that said first peripheral is physically connected to and is in electrical communication with said core module.

Claim 18. (Original) The method as in claim 17, further comprising detecting tampering with said first peripheral.

Claim 19. (Original) The method as in claim 18, further comprising plugging a first end cap into said first peripheral so that said first end cap is physically connected to said first peripheral.

Claim 20. (Original) The method as in claim 19, further comprising detecting tampering with said first end cap.

Claim 21. (Original) The method as in claim 19, further comprising:  
removing said first end cap from said first peripheral;  
plugging a second peripheral into said first peripheral so that said second peripheral is physically connected to and is in electrical communication with said core module through said first peripheral; and  
plugging said first end cap into said second peripheral so that said first end cap is physically connected to said second peripheral.

Claim 22. (Original) The method as in claim 21, further comprising communicating data collected from said first peripheral and said second peripheral to said input/output module through said core module.

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Claim 23. (Original) The method as in claim 22, wherein said first and second peripherals each has a function selected from the group consisting of access control, temperature detection, smoke detection, intrusion entry alarms, lighting control, video surveillance, intercom communications, motion detection, asset resource tracking, inventory control, biometrics, closed circuit television, expense control tracking, personnel tracking, guard tour, product vending, HVAC monitoring, time/ attendance monitoring, chemical agent sensing, biological agent sensing, optical sensors, and any combinations thereof.